

~~38.~~
38. (New) The isolated polynucleotide of claim 1, wherein the nucleotide sequence is expressed at the mRNA level in Jurkat T cells; and when COS-1 cells expressing TNF receptor are genetically altered to express the sequence, the cells have increased enzymatic activity for cleaving and releasing the receptor.

~~39.~~
39. (New) The polynucleotide of claim 37 or 38, having one or more of the following properties:

- A2
CMT
- a) the polynucleotide comprises a nucleotide sequence contained in SEQ ID NOs:1-10;
 - b) the polynucleotide comprises a nucleotide sequence of at least 30 consecutive nucleotides contained in SEQ ID NOs:1-10;
 - c) the polynucleotide comprises a nucleotide sequence of at least 50 consecutive nucleotides at least 90% identical to a sequence contained in SEQ ID NOs:1-10; or
 - d) the polynucleotide is capable of hybridizing specifically to a nucleotide sequence contained in SEQ ID NOs:1-10 under stringent conditions; or
 - e) the polynucleotide comprises a nucleotide sequence that encodes at least 10 consecutive amino acids encoded in SEQ ID NOs:1-10;

wherein the polynucleotide has at least one of the following properties:

- i) the polynucleotide encodes a polypeptide which, when incubated with COS-1 cells expressing TNF receptor, promotes enzymatic cleavage and release of the receptor; or
- ii) the polynucleotide is a labeled probe or amplification primer that specifically identifies a polynucleotide comprising SEQ ID NOs:1-10.

~~36.~~
40. (New) The polynucleotide of claim 39 that comprises a nucleotide sequence of at least 30 consecutive nucleotides contained in SEQ ID NOs:1-10.

~~37.~~
41. (New) The polynucleotide of claim 39 that encodes a polypeptide which, when incubated with COS-1 cells expressing TNF receptor, promotes enzymatic cleavage and release of the receptor

~~38.~~
42. (New) The polynucleotide of claim 39 that is a labeled probe or amplification primer.